

Message Text

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ACTION IO-06

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 ISO-00 EB-04 AID-05 SS-15 SP-02 NSC-05

L-01 H-01 PA-01 PRS-01 USIA-06 CIAE-00 INR-05 NSAE-00

RSC-01 /060 W

----- 003893

R 060645Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5770

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 14394

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: UNESCO, JA

SUBJ: JAPAN'S CANDIDACY FOR ECOSOC

REF: TOKYO 14279

SUMMARY: FONOFF EXPRESSED HOPE TO EMBASSY THAT U.S. WILL SUPPORT JAPAN'S CANDIDACY FOR ECOSOC SEAT DESPITE INITIAL LUKEWARM REACTION TO APPROACH IN WASHINGTON. EMBASSY URGES U.S. SUPPORT IN ABSENCE OF OVERRIDING NEGATIVE FACTORS OF WHICH IT NOT AWARE. END SUMMARY.

1. IN AN EVENING MEETING JUST BEFORE HIS DEPARTURE FOR THE WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE (WFC) IN ROME, AFTER GIVING EMBOFF A COPY OF GOJ POSITIONS ON WFC RESOLUTINS (REFTEL), MR. MAKOTO TANIGUCHI, DIRECTOR OF FONOFF UN BUREAU'S ECONOMIC AFFAIRS DIVISION, RAISED SUBJECT OF JAPAN'S CANDIDACY FOR ELECTION TO ECOSOC THIS YEAR.

2. HE SAID 1975 WOULD BE QTE THE ECONOMIC YEAR UNQTE OF UN AND NOTED ECOSOC WOULD PLAY KEY ROLE IN SEVERAL IMPORTANT MATTERS, INCLUDING PREPARATIONS FOR 1975 GENERAL ASSEMBLY, MID-TERM REVIEW OF SECOND DEVELOPMENT DECADE, AND UN'S DEALING WITH QUESTIONS AFFECTING MULTI-CONFIDENTIAL

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NATIONAL CORPORATIONS. JAPAN HAS IMPORTANT INTERESTS

AT STAKE IN ALL OF THESE AND OTHER MATTERS, TANIGUCHI SAID, AND THEREFORE ATTACHES CONSIDERABLE IMPORTANCE TO BEING ELECTED TO ECOSOC THIS YEAR--SO MUCH SO THAT IT IS PUTTING ITS CANDIDACY FORWARD DESPITE FACT THAT IT HAS NOT BEEN POSSIBLE TO GUARANTEE JAPAN'S ELECTION IN ADVANCE. JAPAN THUS RISKS POSSIBILITY OF BEING DEFEATED IN A UN ELECTION FOR THE FIRST TIME IN ITS HISTORY AS A MEMBER OF THE WORLD BODY.

3. TANIGUCHI REFERRED TO FACT THAT JAPAN'S EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON HAD APPROACHED DEPARTMENT AND HAD SOUGHT U.S. SUPPORT FOR GOJ ECOSOC CANDIDACY. HE EXPRESSED SURPRISE AND DISAPPOINTMENT THAT DEPARTMENT'S RESPONSE WAS LUKEWARM AND NON-COMMITTAL. HE REFERRED TO PARALLEL INTERESTS OF U.S. AND JAPAN ON MATTERS TO BE DEALT WITH IN ECOSOC AND NOTED EFFECTIVE J.S.-JAPAN COOPERATION ON SEVERAL MULTILATERAL ECONOMIC MATTERS IN RECENT PAST. HE SAID JAPAN HAD LINED UP SUBSTANTIAL SUPPORT BUT NOT YET ENOUGH TO ASSURE ELECTION TO ECOSOC AND CONTINUED STRONGLY TO HOPE FOR SUPPORT FROM U.S., WHICH IT VIEWS AS ESSENTIAL TO ITS SUCCESSFUL CANDIDACY.

4. EMBASSY COMMENT: GOJ HAS STRONG AND LEGITIMATE INTEREST IN ECONOMIC MATTERS DUE TO ARISE IN U.N. CONTEXT DURING COMING YEAR, PARTICULARLY AREAS IN WHICH WE LOOK TO JAPAN TO PLAY INCREASINGLY ACTIVE ROLE. ON MANY OF THESE ISSUES, ALSO OF SUBSTANTIAL IMPORTANCE TO U.S., JAPAN HAS TAKEN POSITIONS WHICH ACCORD CLOSELY WITH U.S. VIEWS AND HAS MADE STRONG EFFORTS TO COORDINATE WITH U.S. DELS--E.G., IN REVIEW AND APPRAISAL OF SECOND DEVELOPMENT DECADE, CHARTER OF ECONOMIC RIGHTS AND DUTIES OF STATES, SIXTH SPECIAL UNGA SESSION ON RAW MATERIALS, AND ISSUES AFFECTING MULTILATERAL TRADE NEGOTIATIONS.

5. IN ADDITION TO SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES SCHEDULED TO ARISE IN ECOSOC, IT ALSO APPEARS LIKELY THAT COMING YEAR WILL SEE CONTINUED AND HEIGHTENED EFFORTS BY MORE RADICAL OF LDC'S TO POLITICIZE ECONOMIC ISSUES AND GAIN CONCESSIONS IN UN BODIES THROUGH CONFRONTATION TACTICS RATHER THAN REASONED BARGAINING IN APPROPRIATE FORA.
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TO DATE JAPAN HAS BEEN DEPENDABLE ALLY IN OPPOSING SUCH TACTICS. IN EMBASSY'S VIEW JAPAN'S MEMBERSHIP WILL PROVIDE VALUABLE SUPPORT, REDUCE POSSIBILITY OF U.S. ISLOATION AND INCREASE POSSIBILITY OF CONSTRUCTIVE ACTION IN ECOSOC DURING COMING YEAR.

6. CONSEQUENTLY, UNLESS THERE EXIST OVERRIDING OBJECTIONS OF WHICH WE ARE NOT AWARE, EMBASSY URGES DEPARTMENT TO

GIVE FAVORABLE CONSIDERATION TO JAPAN'S ECOSOC
CANDIDACY AND TO INFORM GOJ THAT IT HAS OUR SUPPORT.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ELECTION CANDIDATES, POPULAR SUPPORT
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 06 NOV 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: KelleyW0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974TOKYO14394
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740319-0074
From: TOKYO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741164/aaaaccwa.tel
Line Count: 118
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: TOKYO 14279
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: KelleyW0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 01 MAY 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <01 MAY 2002 by rowelle0>; APPROVED <27 MAR 2003 by KelleyW0>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: JAPAN'S CANDIDACY FOR ECOSOC
TAGS: PORG, JA, US, UNESCO
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005